

Application No. 10/804,283
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Amendments to the specification:

[0038] FIG. 10 is a partial perspective view of two layers A' and B' each with three ribbons 42a', 42b' and 42c' of FIG. 8. Upper tabs 86a and lower tabs 88a (not visible in FIG. 10) of alternating segments 82, 82 and upper tabs 86b and lower tabs 88b of alternating segments 84, 84 may have similar or identical configurations. Upper tabs 86a, 86b and lower tabs 88a, 88b of aligned segments 82, 84 of adjacent ribbons 42a', 42b', 42c' project from standard strips 80 parallel to each other. Edges 58' of upper tabs 86a, 86b and lower tabs 88a, 88b of cater-cornered segments 82, 84 of adjacent ribbons 42a', 42b', 42c' that converge are offset from each other and define openings 60' for the horizontal passage of stripping fluid and catalyst. Moreover edges 58' of upper tabs 86a, 86b and lower tabs 88a, 88b of alternating segments 82, 82 and 84, 84 of the same ribbons 42a', 42b', 42c' define openings 61' [[61']] for the vertical passage of stripping fluid and catalyst. These openings 60', 61' [[61']] are also defined by the faces 56' of the upper and lower tabs 86a, 86b, 88a, 88b and standard strips 80. Stabilizing strips 90 are nested in troughs 102 defined by upper tabs 86 and lower tabs 88 of ribbons 42a', 42b', 42c' and secured therein for purposes of stability. Moreover, the dimension of the stabilizing strip can be varied to adjust the degree of obstruction to fluid flow. In other words, the dimension of the strip is inversely proportional to the dimension of the openings 61' [[61']]. Smaller dimensions of openings 61' [[61']] allow only smaller bubbles of stripping gas to ascend in the stripping section 38, thereby facilitating mass transfer of the gas in bubbles to strip the catalyst. The stabilizing strip 90 may have a diamond profile. Other profiles for the stabilizing strip are contemplated.